

P-404, 421, 430, 407, 405, 426/CP-89-1039 REQUIRING FILING OF TRAFFIC STUDY

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Patrice Vick	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service between the Monticello Exchange and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: July 3, 1990

DOCKET NO. P-404, 421, 430, 407, 405, 426/CP-89-1039

ORDER REQUIRING FILING OF TRAFFIC STUDY

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 20, 1989, customers within the Monticello exchange filed a petition requesting that the Commission authorize extended area service (EAS) to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan calling area.

On April 27, 1990, the Minnesota legislature enacted legislation regulating the installation of extended area service (EAS) in Minnesota. The legislation specifies the circumstances under which the expansion of the metropolitan extended area telephone service is required. Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990).

On June 12, 1990, the Commission met to consider the implications of this legislation for EAS petitions currently pending before the Commission¹ and to undertake its revised regulatory

¹ The implications of the new legislation for the other petitions for extended area service (EAS) pending before the Commission are addressed in separate Orders of the Commission:

1. In the Matter of the Petitions of Certain Subscribers in the Exchanges of Zimmerman, Prescott, Waconia, Belle Plaine, North Branch, Lindstrom, New Prague, Cambridge, Hudson, Houlton, LeSueur, Cannon Falls, Delano, Northfield, Buffalo, and Watertown for Extended Area Service to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area, Docket P-421, 405, 407, 430, 426, 520, 427/CI-87-76, ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION OF JUNE 20, 1989 ORDER IN LIGHT OF MINNESOTA STATUTE § 237.161 (1990) (June 26, 1990).

2. In the Matter of the Petition of Certain Subscribers in the Montrose Exchange for Extended

responsibilities under the legislation.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Regulation Under the New EAS Statute

Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990) divides telephone exchanges into two groups: metro area exchanges (i.e. those served by a central office located within the seven county metropolitan area) and non-metro area exchanges. The Monticello exchange is a non-metro area exchange because its central office is not within the seven county metro area.

Non-Metro Area Exchanges: Section 1 of Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990) requires the Commission to grant petitions for installation of extended area service when three objective criteria have been met. First, the petitioning exchange must be adjacent to an exchange or local calling area to which extended area service is requested. Second, a traffic study must indicate that at least 50 percent of the customers in the petitioning exchange make one or more calls per month to the exchange or local calling area to which service is requested. Third, polling by the Commission must show that a majority of the customers responding to the poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation, unless all parties including the Commission agree that no polling is necessary.

The New Statutory Requirements and Procedures as Applied to the Monticello Petition for EAS

The Monticello exchange meets the first of the three criteria of Minn. Stat. § 237.161, Sec. 1, adjacency. However, a traffic study to establish that 50 percent or more of the Monticello subscribers make one or more calls to the metropolitan calling area per month has not been filed.

Area Service to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area, Docket No. P-421, 413, 407, 405, 430, 426/CP-88-856, ORDER DEFERRING ACTION (July 3, 1990)

3. In the Matter of the Petition of Certain Subscribers of the Waverly Exchange for Extended Area Service to the Metropolitan Calling Area, Docket No. P-413, 421, 430, 407, 405, 426/CP-89-187, ORDER DEFERRING ACTION (July 3, 1990).

4. In the Matter of the Petition for Extended Area Service from Mayer, Minnesota to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area, Docket No. P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CP-88-839, ORDER REQUIRING FILING OF COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES (July 3, 1990).

The Commission will require the Bridge Water Telephone Company, the telephone company that serves the Monticello exchange, to conduct and file a traffic study, within 45 days of the date of this Order, that will allow the Commission to make that determination.

If the Monticello exchange traffic study shows the requisite traffic to the metro calling area, a subsequent Order of the Commission will establish a filing date for submission of cost studies and proposed rates and the Commission will proceed to set appropriate rates as a prerequisite to polling.

ORDER

1. Within 45 days of the date of this Order, Bridge Water Telephone Company shall file a traffic study with the Commission that shows whether 50% or more of the Monticello exchange subscribers make one or more telephone calls to the metropolitan calling area per month and shall serve a copy of its filing on the Minnesota Department of Public Service, the Residential Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General (RUD-OAG) and the City of Monticello, the petition sponsor.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)